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Summary record of the 24th meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Friday, 14 November 2003, at 10 a.m.

Chairman: Ms. Ognjanovac (Vice-Chairman) ..... (Croatia)

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Organization of work

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In the absence of Mr. Loedel (Uruguay), Ms. Ognjanovac (Croatia), Vice-Chairman, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 10.35 a.m.

Agenda item 83: United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (*continued*) (A/C.4/58/L.9/Rev.1, L.10-L.13, L.14/Rev.1, L.15, L.16 and L.22)

Agenda item 84: Report of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories (*continued*) (A/C.4/58/L.17, L.18, L.19/Rev.1, L.20/Rev.1 and L.21)

1. **The Chairman** said that negotiations on the draft resolutions were still under way and that more time was required. She suggested a half-hour suspension of the meeting.

2. **Mr. Estremé** (Argentina) said that the Committee had postponed a decision on agenda items 83 and 84 several times. Each meeting cost thousands of dollars and delegations' time was being wasted. That was regrettable. The work of the Committee must be revitalized and streamlined.

3. The delegation of Argentina stressed that transparency was lacking in the ongoing negotiations. Delegations had no information about the nature of the issues discussed and no opportunity to seek instructions from their capitals. Given the importance of the items under consideration, delegations must have complete and timely information.

4. Next year, negotiations on such draft resolutions should begin earlier to avoid postponements.

5. **Mr. Musonda** (Zambia), supporting the representative of Argentina, said that delegations which had not participated in the negotiations had no information on what had taken place. He would like to know when the negotiations would end. Perhaps the meeting should be postponed until the following week to avoid wasting time.

6. **Mr. McIvor** (New Zealand), noting that the negotiation process was complex, said that his delegation had no objection to granting the extra time required to obtain positive results from the negotiations.

7. The current procedure was ineffective and a pointless waste of time. More time was needed to consider the substantive amendments to the draft resolutions and to consult with capitals.

8. **Mr. Al-Kidwa** (Observer for Palestine), noting that the ongoing negotiations were complex, said that the delays had occurred because delegations participating in the negotiations had been awaiting instructions from their capitals. The items under consideration were extremely significant, and a vote must be held as soon as possible. Eight of the resolutions were not the subject of negotiations: none of them would be changed in any way. General changes might be made to the ninth resolution.

9. **Mr. Pemagbi** (Sierra Leone) said that at some stage negotiations were inevitably limited to a small number of countries and that not all Committee members needed to take part in them. Supported by **Mr. Musonda** (Zambia), he proposed that the Committee should take immediate decisions on the resolutions on which there was no disagreement and vote on the complex and controversial resolutions later, when the concerned parties had reached consensus. That would reflect the stated objective of revitalizing the work of the General Assembly and the Main Committees.

10. **Mr. Carnelos** (Italy), speaking on behalf of the European Union, said that the Presidency of the Union, in particular, fully shared the disappointment of many delegations over the ongoing discussions and constant postponements. Many delegations remained in the dark and wanted to know when the vote would be taken. The draft resolutions must be finalized and put to a vote. The drafting should be completed in no more than 30 minutes and then a vote should be taken.

11. **Ms. Price** (Canada) said that, while her delegation shared the disappointment of others over the lack of consensus, it still preferred to proceed to the vote on all the resolutions immediately.

12. **Mr. Laggner** (Switzerland) said that his delegation also shared his colleagues' disappointment; nevertheless, he supported the idea of granting 30 to 40 minutes to finalize the draft resolutions.

13. **Ms. Ferrari** (Saint Vincent and the Grenadines) wondered whether the 30 minutes had not already elapsed.

14. **Mr. Carnelos** (Italy) said that the European Union would not object to voting first on the non-controversial draft resolutions and proposed that there should be an immediate decision on the draft resolutions under agenda item 84 and then a half-hour suspension to complete work on the draft resolution on the work of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) before proceeding to a vote.

15. **Mr. Al-Kidwa** (Observer for Palestine) and **Mr. Issa** (Lebanon) said that it would make far more sense to proceed to the vote on the four draft resolutions under agenda item 83 and then consider the draft resolutions under agenda item 84 that were still under discussion.

16. **Mr. Carnelos** (Italy), speaking on behalf of the European Union, and **Mr. Keiswetter** (United States of America) called for an immediate suspension to finalize the draft resolutions.

17. **Ms. Abdelhady-Nasser** (Observer for Palestine) said that her delegation was prepared to accept that proposal.

18. Following a request for clarification by **Mr. Pemagbi** (Sierra Leone), **the Chairman** said that a decision would be taken on the draft resolutions after the suspension regardless of whether consensus had been reached on all of them. Decisions on draft resolutions on which there was no agreement might be postponed.

The meeting was suspended at 11.05 a.m. and resumed at 11.35 a.m.

19. **Mr. Zhang** Saijin (Secretary of the Committee) said that draft resolutions A/C.4/58/L.9/Rev.1, L.10-L.13, L.14/Rev.1, L.15, L.16, L.18, L.19/Rev.1, L.20/Rev.1, L.21 and L.22 had no programme budget implications. With respect to subparagraphs 8 (a), (b), (c) and (d) of draft resolution A/C.4/58/L.17, the Secretary-General was requested to provide the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories with all necessary facilities to investigate Israeli policies and practices. It should be recalled that the General Assembly had allocated $236,300 to the Special Committee during the 2002-2003 biennium and $248,300 during the 2004-2005 biennium. Thus draft resolution A/C.4/58/L.17 also had no programme budget implications and required no additional appropriations.

Draft resolutions submitted under agenda item 83

20. **Mr. El Badri** (Egypt), speaking on behalf of the Group of Arab States, Malaysia and the Islamic Republic of Iran, proposed that the order of consideration of the draft resolutions before the Committee should be changed, in accordance with rule 131 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, and that the Committee should first take up draft resolution A/C.4/58/L.10.

21. *The proposal was adopted.*

22. **Mr. Percaya** (Indonesia), introducing several draft resolutions, said he would introduce only four draft resolutions under agenda item 83 on behalf of the sponsors, although seven draft resolutions similar to those traditionally adopted under that item had originally been submitted to the Committee for consideration. In the light of concerns expressed by Committee members and their calls for consolidation of some draft resolutions, the sponsors had reduced the number of draft resolutions submitted for consideration while retaining the essential elements. The four draft resolutions fully reflected the importance of the work of UNRWA and affirmed the rights of the Palestinian refugees and displaced persons. The Committee would be taking a decision on the following draft resolutions: A/C.4/58/L.10, entitled "Assistance to Palestinian refugees"; A/C.4/58/L.12, entitled "Persons displaced as a result of the June 1967 and subsequent hostilities"; A/C.4/58/L.14/Rev.1, entitled "Operations of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East"; and A/C.4/58/L.15, entitled "Palestine refugees' properties and their revenues".

23. He briefly informed Committee members about the substance of the draft resolutions and introduced an oral revision to draft resolution A/C.4/58/L.14/Rev.1, consisting of the addition at the end of paragraph 4 of the following words: "as reflected in the programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005 (Supplement No. 13, addendum A/58/13/Add.1)".

24. He expressed the hope that the draft resolutions would receive the broadest possible support.

25. **Mr. van den Berg** (Netherlands) said that, given the joint efforts made by delegations, his delegation was withdrawing draft resolution A/C.4/58/L.11.

Resolutions on that issue had always been adopted by consensus, and therefore his delegation had decided to withdraw it, with some regret; but the notion of consolidating draft resolutions was more important.

26. **Mr. Vrooman** (United States of America) drew attention to a non-paper in which revisions were introduced to draft resolution A/C.4/58/L.9/Rev.1, entitled "Assistance to Palestine refugees and support for the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East", and said that the following countries had joined the sponsors of the draft resolution: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Cameroon, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Grenada, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Marshall Islands, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Republic of Korea, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

27. The following revisions were introduced to draft resolution A/C.4/58/L.9/Rev.1: the words "and its resolutions 57/117, 57/118, 57/119, 57/120, 57/121, 57/122 and 57/123 of 11 December 2002" were deleted from the second preambular paragraph. The phrase "regretting the death of six Agency staff members during the reporting period" was deleted from the sixth preambular paragraph, and made into a separate paragraph following it. In the eighth preambular paragraph the words "compliance with applicable obligations under" should be deleted, and after the words "Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations" the following phrase should be added: "with regard to the safety of the personnel of the Agency, the protection of its institutions and the safeguarding of the security of the facilities of the Agency, including throughout the occupied territories." The remaining part of that paragraph should be made into a new preambular paragraph, to read as follows: "*Stressing also* the need for respect of international humanitarian law." After that paragraph a new preambular paragraph should be added to read as follows: "*Emphasizing* the obligations of all Parties in accordance with the Geneva Convention Relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949."

28. In the operative part, in paragraph 10, the words from "and calls upon the Agency to continue to work" to the end of the paragraph, as well as all of paragraph 13, should be deleted.

29. **Mr. Hassan** (Jordan), speaking on behalf of the sponsors of document A/C.4/58/L.22, said that, given the compromise reached between the parties concerned, the sponsors would no longer insist on a decision on amendments to draft resolution A/C.4/58/L.9/Rev.1 contained therein.

30. **Mr. Carnelos** (Italy), speaking on behalf of the European Union, said that the European Union had joined the sponsors of draft resolutions A/C.4/58/L.9/Rev.1, L.10 and L.15 and would vote in favour of all five draft resolutions under the item.

31. **The Chairman** said that the following States had joined the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.4/58/L.10: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, the Comoros, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Guinea, Hungary, Indonesia, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Mali, Malta, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, the Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. The following States had joined the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.4/58/L.12: the Comoros, Guinea, Indonesia, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Mali and the Sudan; and Guinea, Mali and Mauritania had joined the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.4/58/L.14/Rev.1. The following States joined the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.4/58/L.15: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, the Comoros, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Guinea, Hungary, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Mali, Malta, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, the Sudan, Sweden and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. The following States joined the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.4/58/L.9/Rev.1: Albania, Croatia, Micronesia (Federated States of), Palau and Uganda.

32. **Mr. Hassan** (Jordan), speaking on behalf of the Arab States in explanation of vote before the vote, said that the Arab States would abstain in the vote on draft resolution A/C.4/58/L.9/Rev.1, as revised, because it did not specifically mention General Assembly

resolution 194 (III) of 11 December 1948, which was the basis for the settlement of the Palestinian question. The efforts made on the draft resolution, as orally revised, were much appreciated; however, in future there should be prior consultations with the parties concerned. The efforts of the past few weeks were a step in the right direction towards reaching consensus on the matter in the future.

33. **Mr. Suriya** (Thailand), speaking in explanation of vote before the vote, said that the international community had long been pursuing the humanitarian objective of improving the plight of the Palestinian refugees, and therefore his delegation would be voting in favour of all of the draft resolutions on UNRWA. In accordance with its long-standing humanitarian traditions, his Government had made a contribution of $30,000 to UNRWA. At the same time, the only real solution for ending the suffering of the Palestinian refugees was a prompt, lasting, comprehensive and peaceful political settlement based on Security Council resolutions. His delegation hoped that the parties concerned would work together on implementing the road map put forward by the Quartet.

34. *A recorded vote was taken on draft resolution A/C.4/58/L.10.*

In favour:

Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Canada, Cape Verde, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nauru, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia and Montenegro, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against:

Israel.

Abstaining:

Cameroon, Honduras, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Palau, Papua New Guinea, Tuvalu, United States of America.

35. *Draft resolution A/C.4/58/L.10 was adopted by 159 votes to 1, with 8 abstentions.*

36. *A recorded vote was taken on draft resolution A/C.4/58/L.12.*

In favour:

Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab

Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia and Montenegro, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against:

Israel, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Palau, United States of America.

Abstaining:

Honduras, Nauru, Papua New Guinea, Rwanda, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu.

37. *Draft resolution A/C.4/58/L.12 was adopted by 156 votes to 5, with 6 abstentions.*

38. *A recorded vote was taken on draft resolution A/C.4/58/L.14/Rev.1, as orally revised.*

In favour:

Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Canada, Cape Verde, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia and Montenegro, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against:

Israel, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Palau, United States of America.

Abstaining:

Cameroon, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Honduras, Nauru, Nicaragua, Papua New Guinea, Rwanda, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu, Vanuatu.

39. *Draft resolution A/C.4/58/L.14/Rev.1, as orally revised, was adopted by 150 votes to 5, with 11 abstentions.*

40. *A recorded vote was taken on draft resolution A/C.4/58/L.15.*

In favour:

Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Canada, Cape Verde, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte

d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia and Montenegro, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against:

Israel, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Palau, United States of America.

Abstaining:

Cameroon, Fiji, Honduras, Nauru, Papua New Guinea, Rwanda, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu, Vanuatu.

41. *Draft resolution A/C.4/58/L.15 was adopted by 153 votes to 5, with 9 abstentions.*

42. *A recorded vote was taken on draft resolution A/C.4/58/L.9/Rev.1, as orally revised.*

In favour:

Albania, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Chile, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Mongolia, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nauru, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Serbia and Montenegro, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tuvalu, Uganda, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela.

Against:

None.

Abstaining:

Algeria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belize, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, China, Comoros, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Egypt, Ghana, Guinea, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Morocco, Namibia, Nepal, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar, Saint Lucia, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

43. *Draft resolution A/C.4/58/L.9/Rev.1, as orally revised, was adopted by 109 votes to none, with 54 abstentions.*

44. **Mr. Mekel** (Israel) said that his delegation had voted in favour of draft resolution A/C.4/58/L.9/Rev.1 as a sign of its respect for the serious efforts of the original sponsors of the draft resolution to depoliticize the resolution on UNRWA and of its belief that the outcome achieved was a step in the right direction.

45. Israel had always believed that resolutions on UNRWA should not be political, that the efforts made by the major donors to UNRWA should not be undermined by diplomatic manoeuvres, that there was no reason to make concessions to support unreasonable positions and that it was unacceptable to transfer verbatim a consensus text to an entirely superficial mirror resolution on "Operations".

46. Unfortunately, the good will and readiness to compromise shown during the discussion of the draft resolutions had been interpreted by some as weakness and a basis for making more and more unreasonable demands.

47. With respect to the reference to the Geneva Conventions in the text of draft resolution A/C.4/58/L.9/Rev.1 and the status of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, Israel's position was well known and the Israeli delegation supported the resolution on that understanding.

48. Israel would like once again to express its gratitude to all delegations that had made efforts to draft a single, non-politicized and consolidated text. Israel also recognized that much more needed to be done to ensure that United Nations resolutions were not made into platforms for advancing one-sided positions.

49. **Mr. Balarezo** (Peru) said that his delegation had voted in favour of draft resolution A/C.4/58/L.10, L.14/Rev.1 and L.15, but had a reservation concerning the references to General Assembly resolution 194 (III), which did not reflect the developments on the ground or take into account subsequent resolutions. The references also seemed to prejudge the outcome of the negotiations.

Draft resolutions submitted under agenda item 84

50. **Mr. Requeijo Gual** (Cuba) introduced the following draft resolutions: A/C.4/58/L.17 on the work of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories; A/C.4/58/L.18 on the applicability of the Geneva Convention; A/C.4/58/L.19/Rev.1 on Israeli settlements in the occupied Palestinian territory, including East Jerusalem, and the occupied Syrian Golan; A/C.4/58/L.20/Rev.1 on Israeli practices affecting the human rights of the Palestinian people and other Arabs of the Occupied Palestinian Territories; and A/C.4/58/L.21 on the occupied Syrian Golan.

51. He briefly reviewed the content of the draft resolutions and made an oral revision to draft resolution A/C.4/58/L.18. In the third preambular paragraph, the following phrase should be added after the words "of 12 August 1949": "and relevant provisions of customary law, including those codified in Additional Protocol 1 to the four Geneva Conventions".

52. In draft resolution A/C.4/58/L.19/Rev.1, the following oral revision was made: the word "unlawful" was deleted before the word "wall" in the tenth preambular paragraph, and in the English version of paragraph 4 the phrase "which is a departure" was substituted for "which is in departure".

53. **The Chairman** said that Guinea and Mali had joined the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.4/58/L.17 and L.18, and Guinea had also become a sponsor of draft resolution A/C.4/58/L.21.

54. **Mr. Mekel** (Israel), speaking in explanation of vote before the vote, said that Israel would vote against the draft resolution on the work of the Special Committee, because its activities did not promote peace and reconciliation between the parties. The roots of the Special Committee's bias lay in its very mandate. His Government believed that the Special Committee must be disbanded as soon as possible.

55. According to information submitted by the Secretariat, the budget implications of the draft resolutions amounted to $230,000, which could have been spent on improving the situation of the Palestinian refugees.

56. His Government strongly urged other Member States desiring peace and reconciliation in the Middle East to vote against the draft resolution.

57. *A recorded vote was taken on draft resolution A/C.4/58/L.17.*

In favour:

Algeria, Angola, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados Belarus, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Ecuador, Egypt, Gambia, Ghana, Grenada, Guinea, Guyana, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Philippines, Qatar, Saint Lucia, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Somalia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against:

Australia, Israel, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Nauru, Palau, United States of America.

Abstaining:

Albania, Andorra, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Austria, Bahamas, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Cameroon, Canada, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Dominica, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Mexico, Mongolia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Serbia and Montenegro, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Tonga, Tuvalu, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Uruguay, Vanuatu.

58. *Draft resolution A/C.4/58/L.17 was adopted by 85 votes to 7, with 73 abstentions.*

59. *A recorded vote was taken on draft resolution A/C.4/58/L.18, as orally revised.*

In favour:

Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Canada, Cape Verde, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia and Montenegro, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against:

Israel, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Nauru, Palau, United States of America.

Abstaining:

Cameroon, Honduras, Papua New Guinea, Rwanda, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu, Vanuatu.

60. *Draft resolution A/C.4/58/L.18, as orally revised, was adopted by 155 votes to 6, with 7 abstentions.*

61. *A recorded vote was taken on draft resolution A/C.4/58/L.19/Rev.1, as orally revised.*

In favour:

Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Canada, Cape Verde, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, Ecuador, Egypt, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guinea, Guyana, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia and Montenegro, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against:

Israel, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Nauru, Palau, Solomon Islands, United States of America.

Abstaining:

Australia, Cameroon, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Papua New Guinea, Rwanda, Tuvalu, Vanuatu.

62. *Draft resolution A/C.4/58/L.19/Rev.1, as orally revised, was adopted by 149 votes to 7, with 12 abstentions.*

63. *A recorded vote was taken on draft resolution A/C.4/58/L.20/Rev.1.*

In favour:

Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Canada, Cape Verde, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, Ecuador, Egypt, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gambia, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guinea, Guyana, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia and Montenegro, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Somalia, South

Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against:

Israel, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Nauru, Palau, Solomon Islands, United States of America.

Abstaining:

Albania, Australia, Cameroon, Costa Rica, Czech Republic, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Georgia, Germany, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Rwanda, Tonga, Tuvalu, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Vanuatu.

64. *Draft resolution A/C.4/58/L.20*/Rev.1 *was adopted by 141 votes to 7, with 19 abstentions.*

65. *A recorded vote was taken on draft resolution A/C.4/58/L.21.*

In favour:

Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Canada, Cape Verde, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia and Montenegro, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against:

Israel, Nauru, Solomon Islands.

Abstaining:

Cameroon, Fiji, Honduras, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Palau, Rwanda, Tonga, Tuvalu, United States of America, Vanuatu.

66. *Draft resolution A/C.4/58/L.21 was adopted by 155 votes to 3, with 11 abstentions.*

67. **Mr. Price** (Canada) said that his delegation had again abstained in the vote on draft resolution A/C.4/58/L.17 on the work of the Special Committee. His Government condemned the violence and was concerned about the suffering of Palestinians and Israelis alike. The draft resolution contained several elements that were not conducive to dialogue and peace. The value of the work of the Special Committee was also questionable.

68. His delegation had voted in favour of draft resolution A/C.4/58/L.20/Rev.1 on Israeli practices affecting the human rights of the Palestinian people, following its long-standing opposition to the practices described in the draft resolution, and taking into account the useful additions made to the text. Reference to the practices of only one side, however, did not promote the cause of peace. With regard to the sixteenth preamubular paragraph, his Government believed that any international presence to monitor the situation must be agreed by both parties.

69. **Mr. Carnelos** (Italy), speaking on behalf of the European Union, and also Bulgaria, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Iceland, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Norway, Poland, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia, said that, as in past years, the European Union had abstained in the vote on draft resolution A/C.4/58/L.17 on the work of the Special Committee. The responsibilities of the Special Committee did not reflect the current situation, and the issues that it was considering would be better dealt with in other forums.

70. The European Union reiterated its firm commitment to seeking a just, lasting and comprehensive solution to the Middle East question on the basis of Security Council resolutions 242 (1967), 338 (1973) and 1397 (2002) and also the road map drawn up by the Quartet. It strongly urged swift implementation of the road map and expressed its readiness, including as a Quartet member, to assist in a final settlement of the conflict in the Middle East in close cooperation with the parties concerned.

71. **Mr. Thomson** (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland) said that his delegation had abstained in the vote on draft resolution A/C.4./58/L.20/Rev.1. Two parties were involved in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, each of them with commitments and responsibilities. The conflict had caused suffering for Israelis and Palestinians alike. Ignoring the suffering of one party was no way to build trust between the two sides. There was no condemnation in the draft resolution of the attacks of the suicide bombers against Israeli citizens, which did not help to settle the dispute or accurately reflect the existing situation.

72. **Ms. Sereno** (Uruguay) said that her delegation, as in past years, had voted for draft resolution A/C.4/58/L.19/Rev.1 on the Israeli settlements, because it agreed with its main thrust: the Israeli settlements in the occupied territories were illegal and placed serious obstacles in the way of peace. Unfortunately, the text of the current draft contained references to matters not strictly related to the subject of the resolution. The question of the wall built by Israel had already been considered in another resolution adopted by the General Assembly. An unfortunate precedent was being set by introducing extraneous issues into a previously well-focused resolution. It was regrettable that, just as the General Assembly was making efforts to revitalize its work, the force and impact of its resolutions was being weakened by overextending their scope and casting doubt on their true intent.

73. **Mr. Blazey** (Australia) said that his delegation had voted for draft resolution A/C.4/58/L.18 and condemned any act that violated the Fourth Geneva Convention. However, his Government reiterated its concern over the references in the preamble to the Conference of High Contracting Parties and the Declaration adopted by it. Australia, which had not participated in that conference, considered that the Declaration should not be interpreted to mean that Israel had violated or was violating article 147 of the Convention.

74. Concerning draft resolution A/C.4/58/L.19/Rev.1, his Government considered that the settlements in the territory seized in 1967 violated international law and hindered the peace process. It called on Israel to freeze all settlement activity and dismantle the "settlement outposts" in accordance with the road map. However, his delegation had abstained in the vote on the draft resolution, as it considered it unbalanced, although it welcomed the deletion of the word "illegal" from the tenth preambular paragraph. While Israel's need to take defensive action was understandable, such measures should not worsen the hardships endured by ordinary Palestinians. None of the parties should take actions that further complicated the outcome of the negotiations.

75. Australia had abstained in the vote on draft resolution A/C.4/58/L.20/Rev.1 as well, because the text was unbalanced.

76. **Mr. Atieh** (Syrian Arab Republic) said that the broad support given to the resolutions under consideration at the current meeting showed that Israel was isolated. The international community had made it known that a continuation of the occupation, including the annexation of the Syrian Golan, was unacceptable and had called on Israel to withdraw from the occupied territories. The importance of the work of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices had been reaffirmed, and the Syrian delegation urged all delegations to support the work of that body in the future.

77. The Syrian Arab Republic strongly supported the peace process, whose outcome would directly affect it: that process was making a significant contribution to the prospects for a just and lasting peace in the Middle

East. He noted that a number of States had abstained in the vote on the draft resolution on the occupied Syrian Golan and urged them to vote in favour of the same resolution when it was considered in a General Assembly plenary meeting.

78. **Ms. Abdelhady-Nasser** (Observer for Palestine), referring to the draft resolutions adopted under agenda item 83, said that her delegation had agreed to work on the package of four resolutions instead of the usual seven in the belief that the consolidation would streamline procedures. The four resolutions appropriately reflected the most important points concerning the Palestinian refugees, displaced persons and UNRWA. Moreover, her delegation had sought to avoid confrontation of any kind and anything that might undermine the Agency and its work. It had tried to maintain the political and legal context and principles that should defend and support the work of UNRWA and also the rights and needs of the Palestinian refugees. General Assembly resolution 194 (III), which was the basis for a just settlement of the refugee problem, was therefore particularly significant.

79. Noting with satisfaction the compromise reached on draft resolution A/C.4/58/L.9/Rev.1, the Palestinian delegation believed that, in view of the adoption of the four traditional resolutions, the draft was redundant and did not promote the stated goal of streamlining the draft resolutions on the relevant item. In future draft resolutions on such important matters should be submitted only after thorough consultations with her delegation and interested parties, as well as with due respect for the sponsors. It was clear that all those who had participated in the agreement on the draft resolution had tried to defend the interests of UNRWA and ensure that the necessary assistance was provided to the Palestinian refugees. That applied to the main donors as well; the Palestinian delegation reiterated its gratitude to all donor countries for their support of the Agency. Given that the Palestinian refugees continued to suffer hardship, the work of UNRWA remained urgent, and the reaffirmation of steadfast principles and positions with regard to the Palestinian refugees and their rights remained absolutely necessary.

80. Concerning the resolutions adopted under agenda item 84, as the statements made by delegations during the discussions made clear, the situation of the Palestinians' rights that had arisen as a result of the illegal policies and practices of Israel continued to raise serious concerns. In that regard, the work of the Special Committee remained especially pertinent. Therefore, the disparaging remarks about that body reiterated by the Israeli representative were regrettable.

81. Her delegation noted with satisfaction the impressive support given to the draft resolutions under the item in question. It was unfortunate, however, that some States members of the European Union (albeit a minority) had changed their position with regard to one of the resolutions on the item under consideration.

82. In conclusion, she expressed her gratitude to delegations for their support of the important resolutions adopted. She also hoped that in the future the Committee would avoid confusion and delays in the work so that optimal solutions to such important matters might be reached.

83. **The Chairman** said that the Committee had completed its consideration of agenda items 83 and 84.

Organization of work

84. **The Chairman** said that the Committee had completed its work for the main part of the fifty-eighth session of the General Assembly.

The meeting rose at 1.40 p.m.